

ITEM NO: 1

DATE: 13 MAR 79

SUBJECT: GRENADA: APPARENT COUP ATTEMPT. 4

THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF SERIOUS DISTURBANCES SINCE THE TAKE-OVER IN GRENADA THIS MORNING OF THE NATIONAL RADIO STATION BY A GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE NEW REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT. AS OF 1600 HRS EST, HOWEVER, CONDITIONS STILL HAVE NOT STABILIZED SUFFICIENTLY TO PERMIT A DEFINITIVE EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION. [REDACTED]

MAURICE BISHOP--THE LEADER OF THE MARXIST-LENINIST OPPOSITION PARTY, THE NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT (NJM)--CLAIMS TO BE PRIME MINISTER OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND HAS CALLED FOR THE EXTRADITION OF PRIME MINISTER ERIC GAIRY, WHO IS VISITING IN NEW YORK CITY. BISHOP SAYS THAT THE NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCES AND POLICE, WHICH NUMBER LESS THAN 500, HAVE SURRENDERED WITHOUT A STRUGGLE. AT LEAST SOME FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE SAID TO BE UNDER

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ARREST.

GAIRY, WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN IN TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH  
 SOME OF HIS MINISTERS IN GRENADA, SAYS THAT ONLY SOME 70-80  
 MEMBERS OF THE NJM ARE INVOLVED IN THE UPRISING. HE ADDED THAT  
 THE POLICE HAVE NOT SURRENDERED, AS ALLEGED BY REBEL RADIO, BUT  
 ARE NOT ABLE TO COUNTERATTACK "BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO AMMUNITION."  
 GAIRY PLANS TO ASK THE US AND UK FOR HELP, BUT BELIEVES THERE  
 IS STILL A POSSIBILITY OF A COUNTER-MOVE BY HIS OWN SUPPORTERS.

PRIME MINISTER JOHN COMPTON OF NEARBY ST. LUCIA, AFTER CON-  
 TACTING SEVERAL GRENADIAN OFFICIALS, FEELS THAT THE TAKEOVER OF  
 THE GOVERNMENT BY THE NJM IS A FACT. ALTHOUGH HE FINDS NO  
 EVIDENCE OF EXTERNAL FORCES INVOLVED, HE HAS CALLED FOR THE GOV-  
 ERNMENTS OF THE CARIBBEAN TO MOVE QUICKLY TO "QUARANTINE THE  
 NEW GROUP ALLEGEDLY IN POWER."

PREPARED BY:

SOURCES:

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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